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Ontario Women's Directorate

NEWSRELEASE

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ONTARIO GOVERNMENT HELPING WOMEN GET BETTER JOBS
Promoting Women's Economic Independence

QUEEN'S PARK – The Ontario government today announced funding that will enable women to receive pre-apprenticeship training in general carpentry at Conestoga College in Guelph through the government's Women In Skilled Trades Program (WIST).

"Our government is committed to helping women learn the skills they need to secure good jobs and become economically independent," said Sandra Pupatello, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues. "WIST is also helping to address Ontario's skills shortages by offering training in trades that are in high demand in specific areas."

Conestoga College will receive $191,428 from the Ontario Women's Directorate to deliver the pre-apprenticeship training in general carpentry for up to 20 local women. Classes start in September.

"I am very pleased that our government has made this opportunity for training available in Guelph," said Liz Sandals, MPP for Guelph-Wellington. "This area is experiencing a major building boom and the women who graduate with the WIST pre-apprenticeship training will have great potential for finding well-paying jobs with local building contractors."

The WIST program targets unemployed and low-income women and provides pre-apprenticeship training in a range of skilled trades. It includes in-school training and a paid on-the-job work placement with local employers. Government funding covers the women's tuition fees and other costs related to the program such as supplies.

The WIST program also supports a variety of training programs at five other locations: General Carpentry at Georgian College in Barrie; New Home Service Technician/General Carpentry at the Centre for Skills Development and Training in Burlington; Welding at La Cité collégiale in Hawkesbury; Native Residential Construction at Northern College in Moosonee and Industrial Electrician at Algonquin College in Ottawa.

For further information about the program at Conestoga College call Tannja Gancevich at 519-748-5220, ext. 3446, or visit www.conestogac.on.ca.

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